

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 JOHANN 02087 101010Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-15
OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 PA-02
PRS-01 /117 W

-----067551 101411Z /56

R 100610Z AUG 77

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6533

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 2087

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, EIND, SF

SUBJECT: ARMCO INTEREST IN CHROME MINING

1. THE JOHANNESBURG STAR AND THE RAND DAILY MAIL OF AUGUST 4
CARRIED STORIES RESPECTIVELY UNDER THE HEADLINES: QUOTE
ARMCO SEEKS STAKE IN SA CHROME INDUSTRY UNQUOTE AND QUOTE
US STEEL GIANT BUYS MINERAL RIGHTS IN TRANSVAAL UNQUOTE.

2. THE STAR STORY FOLLOWS:

QUOTE THE BIG UNITED STATES STEEL PRODUCER, ARMCO OF OHIO,
HAS SET AIM ON WINNING A DIRECT STAKE IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN
CHROME MINING INDUSTRY.

THE FIRST MOVE HAS BEEN TO SECURE HALF THE MINERAL RIGHTS ON
A FARM NAMED STRYDFONTEIN IN THE MARICO DISTRICT IN WESTERN
TRANSVAAL - AN AREA ALREADY YIELDING CHROME AND ORE FOR
REFRACTORY BRICK.

ARMCO GAINED THE STAKE VIA ITS SA SUBSIDIARY ARMCO BRONNE,
WHICH PUT IN A WINNING R500,000 BID AT PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE SIGNIFICANCE IS THAT STRYDFONTEIN SITS BETWEEN TWO CHROME
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 JOHANN 02087 101010Z

MINES IN OPERATION ALREADY: MARICO MINERAL COMPANY, MANAGED
BY ANGLO AMERICAN, AND ZEERUST CHROME MINES, UNDER THE ANGLO
TRANSVAAL WING.

ARMCO SHARES THE MINERAL RIGHTS WITH VEREENIGING REFRACTORIES,
ALSO IN THE ANGLO STABLE.

ITS KEENNESS TO WIN THE STAKE WAS EVIDENT BY ITS PREPAREDNESS
TO SHOOT IS BIDDING NEARLY 10 TIMES OVER THE RESERVE PRICE OF

LITTLE OVER R50,000 AT THE ARTHUR MEIKLE AND CO. AUCTION.
CLEARLY THE US STEEL COMPANY IS ANXIOUS TO MAKE CERTAIN OF
ITS OWN ACCESS TO CHROME FOR SHIPMENT BACK TO ITS STEEL
MILLS.
PROSPECTING TO GAUGE THE POTENTIAL OF STRYDFONTEIN IS NOW
EXPECTED TO BE GIVEN THE GO-AHEAD SOON AS A JOINT VENTURE.
END QUOTE.

3. COMMENT. HENRY KLOSTERMAN, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF
ARMCO IN JOHANNESBURG CONFIRMED THE ESSENTIAL DETAILS OF
THE STORY AND SAID THAT THE PROPERTY WOULD LIKELY BE
PROMPTLY MINED. JOHNSON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MINING, INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS, CHROMIUM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JOHANN02087
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770287-1171
Format: TEL
From: JOHANNESBURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770878/aaaacnrd.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 79cd305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1649898
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARMCO INTEREST IN CHROME MINING
TAGS: EMIN, EIND, SF, US STEEL, ARMCO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/79cd305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009